

Topic: Recording and Retention of 6a-10p Broadcast

Sounds like a good idea, but just not well thought out. As a small market broadcaster located in Southeast Oklahoma and Northeast Texas we see this proposal unnecessary and technical flawed.

Canadian broadcasters have been required to record and send in tapes to the government for years, when this issue was brought up I was reminded of the conversations that I have had with Canadian Broadcasters and their nightmares of retaining station broadcasts.

The first problem is electronic equipment is unpredictable. It is impossible to record and retain 100% of the audio for long periods of time. Today's equipment does not meet the standards necessary to complete the suggested task. Canada's broadcasters have used tape devices that failed, and now hard drives that crash or the computers that lock up. Even if the failure rate is only one percent the fine would still be levied if the audio in question was a part of the one percent that was lost.

The second problem is storage. Storage of the audio is a major problem, hard drives or tape it is still impossible to be 100% accurate. At this point if the audio is recorded properly the storage of the audio isn't 100% guaranteed. Hard drives crash, CD's break, and tape drives eat the tape. Once again a broadcaster complies with the rules and the data is corrupted, the fine is still enforced due to an equipment failure.

Finally, new regulations and responsibilities will create additional work load and unwarranted stress to station employees. To ensure that the recordings are being made correctly, each day the audio will have to be reviewed by station employees. This will take enormous amounts of time that could be better spent providing compelling content for the community.

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